Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Suggestion on Black Money

2986. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has suggested some bold and innovative schemes to put the accumulated unaccounted black money to productive use and to stop or reduce the generation of such money in future;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to implement these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In a publication 'Report on Black Money' brought out by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), over — regulation, controls and high rates of taxation are asserted to cause widespread generation of black money. To get over the problem, the ASSOCHAM has made a number of suggestions. These, *inter alia*, include import of gold against payment of import-duty, reduction in stamp-duty on transactions in land to a uniform 2-3 per cent throughout the country; amendment of the provsions of Urban Land Ceiling Act to permit use of land in public interest; removal of controls over newsprint production; delicensing of all activity pertaining to raw materials, production and distribution of textiles; adoption of specific duty rates in respect of plastics and non-ferrous metals and rationalisation of sales tax structure in respect of the former; abolition of octroi; and raising of exemption limits and grading duties in respect of small scale industry.

(c) The suggestions made by bodies like the ASSOCHAM, along with those of individuals and others, are taken into account by the Government while formulating policies.

Recovery of Excise Duty due from M/s. I.T.C. Limited and M/s. Godfrey Phillips India Limited

2987. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the exact amount of Central Excise duty due from M/s. I.T.C. Limited and M/s. Godfrey Phillips India Limited as on the 31st December, 1991; and

(b) what concrete steps Government propose to take to recover the due?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) M/s. I.T.C. Limited-Rs. 114.34 Crores, of which Rs. 20 Crores has been deposited. Recovery of Rs. 90.44 Crores has been stayed by Collector, Appeals, CEGA Tribunal and High Court. Recovery of Rs. 0.69 Crores due from M/s.Godfrey Phillips India Limited is also stayed.

(b) Government has instructed the Collectors to move to expedite the matters before the Appellate Authorities and get the stay vacated for recovery of the amounts.

Misuse of Customs duty Exemption by M/s. ITC

2988. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1125 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th July, 1991 and state:

(a) what is the present progress of the investigations into the case of evasion of customs duty by M/s. ITC; and

(b) what action Government propose to take now in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) The adjudication proceedings have been stayed in February, 1992 by the Hon'ble High Court of Madras. Efforts are being made to get the stay vacated.